

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A thickener for concentration of a ~~fibre~~ fiber suspension containing relatively coarse undesired particles, comprising:

- a housing ~~(1)~~,
- a rotor ~~(2)~~ arranged in the said housing,
- a screen member ~~(4)~~ attached to the said rotor and having including screen passages dimensioned for separating the ~~fibre~~ said fiber suspension into a first fraction of the ~~fibre~~ said fiber suspension passing through the said screen member and substantially containing ~~fibres~~ fibers, and a second fraction not passing through the said screen member and containing the said coarse undesired particles,
- a stationary thickening member ~~(9)~~ surrounding the at least a portion of said rotor and provided with a multiplicity of through holes, and
- supply means ~~(6, 10)~~, arranged in the housing for supplying the said first fraction of the ~~fibre~~ said fiber suspension to the said stationary thickening member, so that the whereby said stationary thickening member separates the ~~can~~ separate said first fraction into a third fraction passing through the holes of the said multiplicity of through holes in said stationary thickening member, and a fourth fraction not passing through the holes of the said multiplicity of through holes in said stationary thickening member, wherein the said multiplicity of through holes of the thickening member (9) are being dimensioned such that substantially only liquid but not fibres is allowed permitted to pass through the said stationary thickening member, whereby the and said fourth fraction of the fibre said fiber suspension produced during operation is constituted by comprises thickened ~~fibre~~ fiber pulp free from of

said undesired coarse particles.

2. (currently amended) A thickener according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said screen member (4) ~~is~~ tubular and is coaxially attached to ~~the~~ said rotor (2).

3. (currently amended) A thickener according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein ~~the~~ said stationary thickening member (9) ~~is~~ tubular and coaxially surrounds ~~the~~ said rotor (2).

4. (currently amended) A thickener according to ~~any of~~ claims 1-3, wherein ~~the fibre~~ said fiber suspension to be thickened has a ~~fibre~~ fiber concentration in the range of 0.5 ~~to~~ to 5%.